

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the first paragraph under the section entitled “Cross-Reference To Related Applications,” and insert the following paragraph:

The present application is a continuation of United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/782,981, filed February 20, 2004 contemporaneously herewith, entitled “Wedge Ramp Distractor and Related Methods for Use in Implanting Artificial Intervertebral Discs”, which is a continuation-in-part application of United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/425,267 (filed April 29, 2003) entitled “Wedge Plate Inserter/Impactor and Related Methods for Use in Implanting an Artificial Intervertebral Disc”, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application 10/282,356 (filed October 29, 2002) entitled “Instrumentation and Methods For Use In Implanting an Artificial Intervertebral Disc”, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/256,160 (filed September 26, 2002) entitled “Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having Limited Rotation Using a Captured Ball and Socket Joint With a Solid Ball and Compression Locking Post”, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/175,417 (filed June 19, 2002) entitled “Artificial Intervertebral Disc Utilizing a Ball Joint Coupling”, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/151,280 (filed May 20, 2002) entitled “Tension Bearing Artificial Disc Providing a Centroid of Motion Centrally Located Within an Intervertebral Space”, which is a continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Number 6,669,730 entitled “Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Spirally Slotted Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves” as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/140,153 (filed May 7, 2002) entitled “Artificial

Intervertebral Disc Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element”, the former being a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/968,046 (filed October 1, 2001, now abandoned) entitled “Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves” and the latter being a continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Number 6,669,730 as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/128,619 (filed April 23, 2002) entitled “Intervertebral Spacer Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element”, which is a continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Number 6,607,559 entitled “Trial Intervertebral Distraction Spacers” as well as U.S. Patent Number 6,673,113 entitled “Intervertebral Spacer Device Having Arch Shaped Spring Elements”. All of the above mentioned applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their respective entireties.